

7 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General Charles P. Cabell, USAF

Following are the notes relating to our conversation of this morning:

1. From an administrative point of view the primary difficulty experienced was lack of detailed enabling legislation to support CIA's unusual administrative problems. It was thought, and properly so, that so much detail should not be put in legislation of the broad policy nature of the National Security Act. This problem has now been met by submission to the Congress of detailed enabling legislation.
2. In its performance of the intelligence functions outlined in the National Security Act, the primary difficulty experienced by CIA has been in certain weakness of language in paragraph 102(d) concerning the meaning of coordination of intelligence activities. Where the act states "it shall be the duty of the Agency" * * * to advise the National Security Council * * * (and) to make recommendations to the National Security Council for the coordination of such intelligence activities", it has been strongly argued that this places on the Director a responsibility merely to obtain cooperation among the intelligence agencies. This weakness of language and the ensuing controversy might have been eliminated by the insertion after the phrase, "it shall be the duty of the Agency", the following words: "and the Director is hereby empowered", or some other such phrase indicating the intent of Congress that the Director was to have a controlling voice in the coordination, subject to the direction of the National Security Council. However, as time has progressed the coordination between the Departments and the Central Intelligence Agency has improved, and is continuing to improve, to such an extent that I do not believe now, new or amended legislation is necessary.

s/ R. H. Hillenkoetter
 (Dispatched by hand RAR 5/7)

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